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## Changes in the April 2024 *Model Church Bylaws*

The previous version of the *Model Church Bylaws* was released in October 2023 and was in effect until late April 2024. The current version includes the following changes:

- **Revision to clause 4.9 to make the first sentence mandatory in alignment with the *Local Church Constitution***

4.9 **THE BOARD MUST APPOINT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH – THE VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER.** The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person, in which case the position must be identified as Secretary/Treasurer.

[The *Local Church Constitution* stipulates the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are the officers of the church.]

- **Revision of the word “shall” to an imperative verb throughout the *Model Church Bylaws***

While the use of the word “shall” has been traditionally used in legal and governance documents to indicate an imperative, the Government of Canada posted the following in August 2022:

*“Must” is extensively used in the legislation of other jurisdictions, notably Australia and at least three Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba) that have amended their Interpretation Acts to state that “must” is to be interpreted as imperative.*

In its direction regarding provisions that create obligations in new legislative texts, it notes that these “are ordinarily to be drafted using ‘must’” and further noted the following:

*The auxiliary “shall” is not to be used, because of its legalistic tone, its rarity in Canadian English outside legal documents and the multiple meanings that have been ascribed to it in legislative texts.*

The Canadian Pacific District is moving away from using “shall” in policy and legal documents given the direction of the Government of Canada for legal documents. As such, all instances of “shall” have been revised to “must” or an appropriate imperative verb.

